

# SEVIS in Salt Lake at the NAFSA Convention

## SEVIS In Transition

The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), moved under the Bureau of Investigations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as of March 1, when INS transitioned into the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

SEVIS, a project initially developed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, realized deployment under the direction of Immigration Services Division, now the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS).

Among the many aspects of restructuring for DHS is selecting the appropriate personnel needed for SEVIS.

Formerly on the program

side of the agency, SEVIS is now being run by enforcement which has meant bringing on new people within ICE to assume the roles previously occupied by those who will stay with projects



associated with the BCIS or the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP).

ICE is certainly aware that the international school community is concerned about the transition of SEVIS, and what the final restructuring will mean.

A working relationship with the International school community and SEVIS users has been and will continue to be at the top of our priority list.

The input and suggestions offered by associations such as yours have been invaluable, and we look forward to an opportunity for continued dialogue.

Any decisions that are made will always be in the best interest of our nation, and the community of students and exchange visitors who are encouraged to seek educational opportunities here in the United States.

All bureaus within DHS continue to work together toward a quick and smooth transition.

## Student and Exchange Visitor Information System

**Salt Lake City, UT**  
**May 25 - 30, 2003**

### SEVIS Numbers:

- Number of SEVIS approved schools as of May 8, 2003— **4877**
- Number of Exchange Visitor Programs approved as of May 8, 2003— **1290**



### SEVIS Forms and Letters

*F*—academic students  
*M*—vocational students

*I-20*—Certificate of Eligibility for *F* & *M* students

*I-17*—Petition for Approval of School attendance by Nonimmigrant Students

*J*—exchange visitors

*DS-2019*—Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitors

*DS-3036*—Exchange Visitor Program Application

## SEVIS Time Line

### Upcoming SEVIS dates for 2003—

Early July—Deployment of 4.7 upgrade.

August 1—All continuing students and exchange visitors must be entered in SEVIS.

Mid-October—Next anticipated system upgrade.

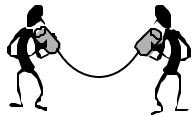
### Previous dates—

February 15, 2003—Mandatory compliance date extended for all schools and exchange programs in accordance with

a special DHS “grace period.”

January 1, 2003—DHS mandated by Congress to fully implement SEVIS.

## Student and Exchange Visitor Information System

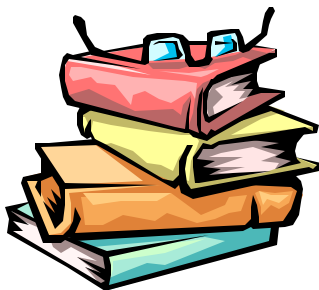


### SEVIS contact information:

Help Desk—1-800-892-4829

Email: [SEVIS.Source@dhs.gov](mailto:SEVIS.Source@dhs.gov)

*SEVIS can also  
be found on the  
web at: [www.immigration.gov](http://www.immigration.gov)*



**SEVIS** is an Internet-based system which provides tracking and monitoring of foreign students, exchange visitors and their dependents throughout their stay in the United States. F, M, and J visas are the categories covered under SEVIS. Through SEVIS, schools and program sponsors are able to electronically transmit information and event notifications, via the Internet, to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of State (DoS) for the length of a student or exchange visitor's stay in the United States. SEVIS affects any institution or organization that is certified by the DHS or DoS to admit nonimmigrant students or exchange visitors to their programs.



The Department of Homeland Security is excited about the progression of SEVIS, and we are especially proud of our working partnership with the Department of State, and Bureau of Consular Affairs. It is this three-way connection that ensures a well-built and well-run SEVIS system to support the educational pursuits of all foreign students and exchange visitors. NAFSA participates in weekly conference calls with the Department of Homeland Security and other school and exchange visitor groups. Your many questions are answered through your NAFSA representatives by a wide-range of SEVIS team members, that include the areas of policy, technology, and the help desk.

## More Information about SEVIS

**Service Centers** — Some SEVIS requests, like optional practical training or change of non-immigrant status, are adjudicated by BCIS service centers. To receive a benefit, a student or exchange visitor should send applications for benefits to the service center of jurisdiction. In SEVIS, Designated School Official's and Responsible Officer's are able to view a benefit application that is pending in that individual's SEVIS record.

When the service center makes a decision on a requested benefit, the decision is sent electronically to SEVIS and is available for viewing by DSOs and ROs in the

applicant's SEVIS record. Students and exchange visitors who apply for benefits will continue to receive receipt notices, Form I-797, from the service centers indicating decisions made on benefits applications.

**U. S. Visit System** — The U.S. Visitor and Immigration Status Indication Technology system is the new entry-exit system which will make entering the U.S. easier for students, legitimate tourists and business travelers. Through the use of biometrically authenticated documents this new system will make it difficult for anyone to enter the U.S. illegally.

**SEVIS Fee**— The Interim rule is currently under review within the Administration. When implemented the Interim rule will require foreign students and exchange visitors who wish to obtain visas and enter the United States to pay a fee to support the Bureau's student and exchange visitor tracking program. Prompt implementation of the student fee is essential to the success of the program.

**Preliminary Enrollment**— ICE will begin contacting preliminarily enrolled schools for their SEVIS certification and on-site review fees shortly. Please send no money until contacted.